

General Provisions

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 550 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations. Carefully managed hunts maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide wholesome recreational opportunities and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. State bag limits, arms and ammunition and other applicable State regulations apply.

General Hunt Regulations

Public hunting on Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge is permitted on approximately 18,000 acres.

Squirrel, raccoon, opossum, quail and rabbit hunting is prohibited west of Flint Creek (see map).

No hunting or discharge of firearms is allowed in the Triana Recreation Area or within 50 yards of any walking trail or boardwalk or from any roadway.

No overnight camping is allowed.

Mules and horses are prohibited on all refuge hunts.

Hunting is allowed Monday-Saturday. **No Sunday hunting.**

Dogs may be used to hunt rabbit, raccoon, quail, squirrel and opossum and must be controlled by the owner/handler at all times.

Hunters may not hunt from a tree in which a metal object has been inserted which is used to support a hunter. Tree stands, blinds, or other personal property must be removed after each day’s hunt.

Hunters must use a body safety harness at all times while hunting from a tree.

Overnight mooring of boats is prohibited.

Marking of trees, flagging tape, and reflective tacks are prohibited.

An area around the Visitor Center is closed to all public entry. This area is posted with “Area Closed” signs (see map).

Hunters under age 16 must be supervised by a properly licensed and permitted adult 21 years of age or older. On small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths, and on big game hunts no more than one youth.

Some refuge gates will be closed. **Do not block gates. Your vehicle will be towed.**

Archery and flintlock deer hunters must wear a minimum of 144 square inches of hunter orange as defined by the State when the State gun deer season is open in Limestone, Madison and Morgan counties.

Hunting by aid of or distributing any feed, salt or other minerals is prohibited.

Only licensed vehicles and bicycles permitted. No ATV’s. Access is limited to graveled roads.

**In addition to the State’s “Game Check” requirement, all deer and feral hogs killed must be reported to Wheeler Refuge within 72 hours.**

Phone Visitor Center: 256/350 6639 or Headquarters: 256/353 7243.

In accepting this brochure, hunter concedes right of inspection of game bag, hunting coat, etc., as provided for by State law, to Refuge Officers and State Conservation Officers.

The following hunting methods and equipment apply:

Deer and feral hog: Hunters may only hunt with archery equipment that complies with state regulations and flintlocks .40 caliber or larger.

Small game: Hunters may hunt with shotguns using only non-toxic #4 shot or smaller, rifles and handguns using rim-fire ammunition only, or archery equipment that complies with state law.

Possession of lead shotgun shells for hunting is prohibited.

Participating in man drives for deer and feral hogs is prohibited.

Hunters must unload hunting firearms before placing them in a vehicle or a boat.

**Caution: other members of public may be in area and without hunter orange.**

**Those requiring special assistance to participate in refuge hunts are encouraged to contact the Visitor Center at 256/350 6639 for information.**

Wheeler  
National Wildlife  
Refuge Hunting  
Regulations & Permit  
2013- 2014



Keep this portion of the brochure with you while hunting. This brochure does not authorize you to hunt refuge lands within Redstone Arsenal.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge  
Hunt Permit 2013-2014

When signed and in your possession, this brochure will serve as your permit, and an indication that you have read and fully understand the special regulations of the permit.

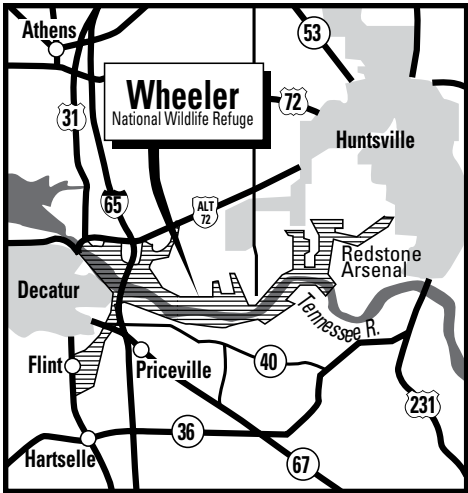
Signature  
(Valid only when signed.)

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge  
2700 Refuge Headquarters Road  
Decatur, AL 35603  
256/350 6639  
www.fws.gov/wheeler

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD

August 2013





**Specific Hunt Seasons**

**Squirrel**  
Season: October 1 - 14 and February 11 - 28

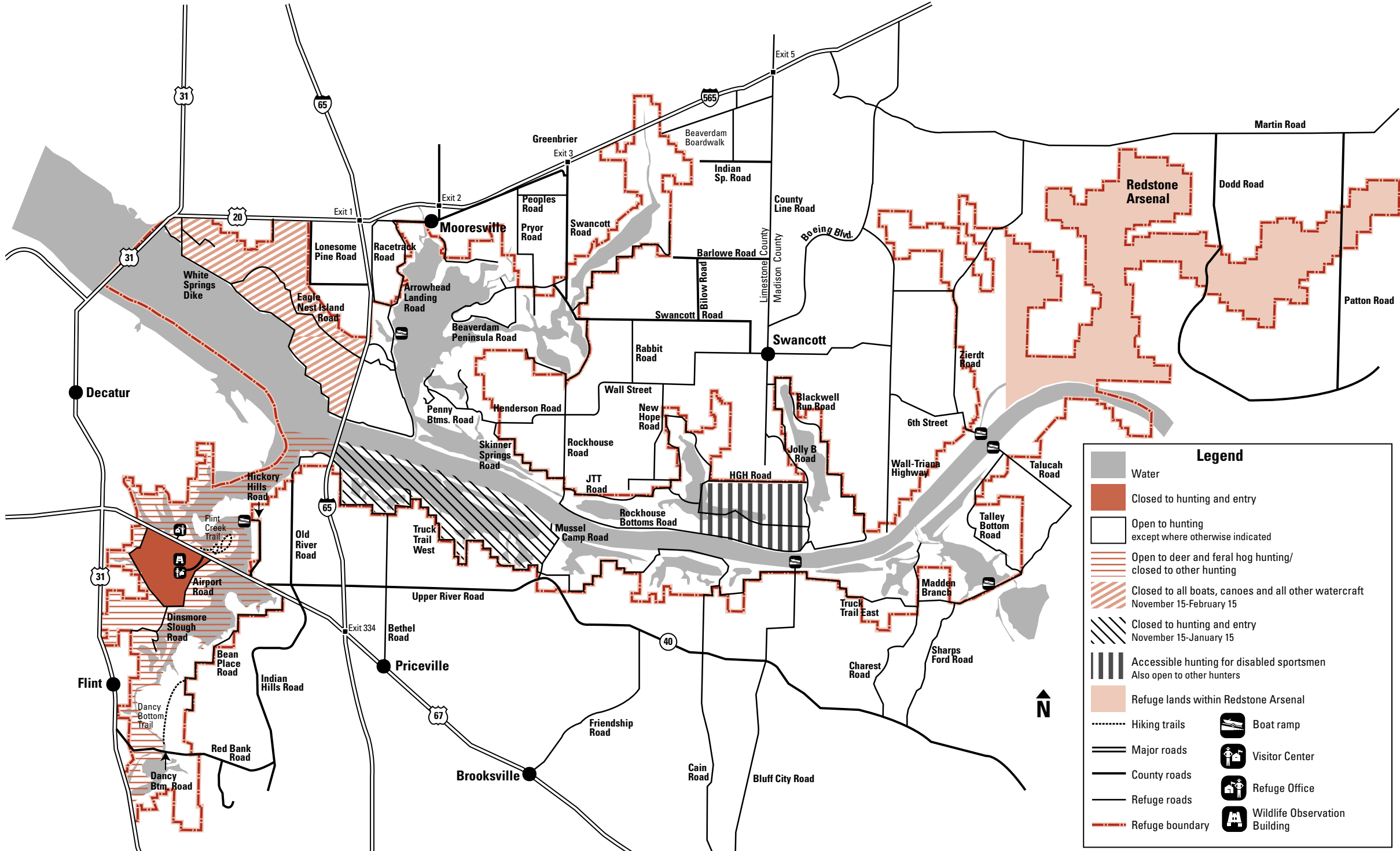
**Raccoon and Opossum**  
Season: February 11 - 28,  
(hunting must not begin until sunset  
February 11)

**Rabbit**  
Season: October 1 - 14 and February 11 - 28

**Quail**  
Season: February 11 - 28

**Deer and Feral Hog**  
Archery: Either Sex  
October 15 - January 31

Flintlock: Antlered Bucks Only  
January 6 - January 20



**Legend**

- Water
- Closed to hunting and entry
- Open to hunting except where otherwise indicated
- Open to deer and feral hog hunting/ closed to other hunting
- Closed to all boats, canoes and all other watercraft November 15-February 15
- Closed to hunting and entry November 15-January 15
- Accessible hunting for disabled sportsmen Also open to other hunters
- Refuge lands within Redstone Arsenal
- Hiking trails
- Major roads
- County roads
- Refuge roads
- Refuge boundary
- Boat ramp
- Visitor Center
- Refuge Office
- Wildlife Observation Building